

The Eagle Forum
Based in Alton, Illinois
Founder: Phyllis Schlafly

Phyllis Schlafly on Women's Rights

Phyllis Schlafly founded Eagle Forum in the 1970s. The organization was an outgrowth of another Schlafly creation, STOP ERA, which helped defeat the Equal Rights Amendment. Schlafly claimed the ERA had a "hidden agenda of tax-funded abortions and same-sex marriages." Opposing women's rights has continued to be central to the Eagle Forum's work.

"Feminism is about developing the notion of victimology. They want to paint women as oppressed victims, kept down by men and this oppressive patriarchal society." – Phyllis Schlafly, Washington Times, January 29, 2003.

"Feminist goals are incompatible with the combat readiness we need in times of war, a priority that has taken on a new urgency because of events since 9/11. The brave firefighters who charged up the towers of the World Trade Center, and our Special Forces who dared to enter the caves in Afghanistan, need our help to defend themselves and their work against the feminists who despise macho men." - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, December 2002.

"The feminists' goal is to eradicate from our culture everything that is masculine and remake us into a gender-neutral society." - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, December 2002.

Eagle Forum is also a staunch opponent of a women's right to choose. Schlafly has also been an integral part of keeping anti-choice language in the National Republican Party platform, and she has served as the chair of the Republican National Coalition for Life.

"All federal court nominees should be required to state opposition to the activist arguments in Roe v. Wade." - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, January 1999.

Phyllis Schlafly on Education

"Evolution can encounter difficulties with the falsification test. Much of what is taught as evolution in the schools is not falsifiable at all and thus cannot truly be called science." - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, March 2001.

“The title [of college classes] may indicate a traditional course of study, but the famous DWEMS (Dead White European Males), who wrote the great books of Western civilization, may have been censored out and replaced with Oppression Studies, i.e., selections from third-rate writers who paint themselves as victims and attack Western civilization as sexist, racist, and oppressive...Avoid women’s studies. They are usually just propaganda courses for sexual politics and radical feminist, and often lesbian, ideology and behavior...Prepare yourself morally and psychologically for the culture shock of freshman orientation. You might be asked to role-play what it’s like to be gay...” – Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, April 2002.

Homeschooling parents do not have to teach the androgyny demanded by radical feminism. They are free to teach boys and girls separately and differently, and let their boys enjoy plenty of recess to work off their excess energy and thereby avoid being given Ritalin to make them behave like girls.” - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, August 2002.

Phyllis Schlafly on “One-World” Government Conspiracies

Throughout the years, Schlafly has aligned herself with a who’s who of right-wing political candidates. In 1996, she was a co-chair for Pat Buchanan’s bid for the GOP presidential nomination.

Schlafly’s ties with radical right-wing ideology extend to her belief in shadowy conspiracy theories. She frequently demonizes the United Nations as “globalists” who are undermining American sovereignty in favor of one-world government.

“The globalists are constantly devising plans to lock the United States into a world government that erases national borders and diminishes national sovereignty.” – Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, June 2002.

“This is clearly an attempt to convert drivers’ licenses (a state matter) into national I.D. cards that will soon also include fingerprints and a magnetic strip containing all sorts of other information (retina scan, DNA print, voice print) to enable the government to track everyone’s movements.” - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, December 1998.

Phyllis Schlafly on Tolerance and Diversity

Schlafly frequently criticizes immigrants and diversity. Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, her xenophobia has been crystal clear. She has blamed immigration policy for allowing the terrorist attacks to happen, even recommending that the House Committee on Un-American Activities be brought back to crack down on internal security. This committee was created in the 1930s to investigate alleged disloyalty and subversive practices by people with Communist ties. It served as a model for Joseph McCarthy’s hearings in the 1950s.

“The terrorists are foreigners, most or all of whom should not have been allowed to live in our country...It should be repeated over and over again: The terrorism threat is from illegal aliens who are allowed to live in our midst – and this is a failure of our immigration laws and our

immigration officials...And let's bring back the House Committee on Un-American Activities. We need congressional watchdogs to close the cracks in our internal security." – Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, October 2001.

"It's time that the American people wake up to how the Left has practically defiled such concepts as 'multiculturalism,' 'tolerance,' 'diversity,' 'political correctness,' and 'melting pot,' while demonizing such concepts as 'profiling' and 'conspiracy.' All cultures are not compatible with American values. We should be highly restrictive about who we allow into our country." - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, October 2001.

"Diversity means diversity only for thoughts and practices that are politically correct. Political correctness means conformity to leftwing orthodoxy. Multiculturalism means all cultures are equal but Western Judeo-Christian civilization is the worst. Tolerance means acceptance of all behaviors except those that comport with the Ten Commandments." – Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, April 2002.

From Schlafly to Randash and Clancy: The Montana Eagle Forum

Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum has had a Montana chapter since the 1990s. Its presence is felt mostly during sessions of the Montana Legislature. Throughout this time, lobbyists for the Montana chapter have been overtly anti-gay.

Although its activity is generally limited to the Montana Legislature, Montana Eagle Forum occasionally makes news in other areas. In 1996, the media reported that Sidney's Alta Bingen was sponsoring a presentation by anti-Semitic tax protestor Red Beckman. Beckman has written that the Holocaust was a judgment on Jews because they believe "Satan is their God." His property was sold by the IRS to pay for back taxes. The *Sidney Herald* reported that Bingen claimed to be sponsoring Beckman's appearance through her membership in Eagle Forum. Representatives of Montana Eagle Forum said Bingen was not in a position to sponsor events on the group's behalf.

Arlette Randash

Arlette Randash was the Montana Eagle Forum's lobbyist through the 1990s. She was also involved with Montana Right to Life and parlayed her Christian Right activism into being a regular columnist for the *Independent Record* during the 1990s.

Randash used the legislature and her newspaper columns to criticize equal protection under the law for gays and lesbians in Montana. She said a court ruling stating that marriage licenses couldn't be denied to gay couples proved "The judicial system in America is out of control." The same column called the *Roe v. Wade* decision the "most glaring, judicially unprecedented, and socially disruptive decision" ever. The same column praised California's Proposition 209 which would have stopped affirmative action programs.

Randash was a vocal critic of Montana court decisions striking down the law making same-sex contact between consenting adults illegal. She said the rulings would cause children to

experiment with promiscuity and spread AIDS. They would also “further erode the protections we’ve always afforded traditional families.” Another column written by Randash called homosexuality “inherently wrong.” She also wrote that confining sexual activity to straight marriages “ushered in the success of Western civilization.”

During the 1997 session, Randash opposed including gays and lesbians in Montana laws dealing with discrimination. Her rationale was that “If we defy gravity, we expect certain results. So too, if we defy moral law.” She said if same-sex marriages were granted, then it would be fair to assume that polygamous, incestuous and bestial unions wouldn’t be far behind.

Gilda Clancy

Gilda Clancy, a former member of Montana’s House of Representatives, has taken over as the lobbyist for Montana Eagle Forum during the 2003 Montana Legislature. She has represented the group in opposing the inclusion of gays and lesbians in Montana’s hate crimes laws. When testifying on behalf of Montana Eagle Forum, she prefaces her statements by saying that the group lobbies on behalf of “God, country and family values.” She has also represented the group in opposing pro-choice bills.

Clancy also illustrates the national group’s support of gun rights. Along with Montana Eagle Forum, she is lobbying for the Montana Women’s Shooting Sports Association during the 2003 session.

“The purpose of this conference [United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons] is to demonize the private ownership of guns and get governments to confiscate all privately owned guns” – Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, June 2001.

“Gun confiscation leads to a loss of freedom, increased crime, and the government moving to the left...Tyrannical governments kill far more people than private criminals.” - Phyllis Schlafly, The Phyllis Schlafly Report, June 2000.

###

Note to Journalists: If you would like hard copies of the materials mentioned, please contact Travis McAdam at 442-5506.